

- 1. RBI Registration** - Always check if the lender is registered with the RBI. If the lender is not on the official RBI list, do not proceed.
- 2. Official Website & Contact Details** - A genuine lender has a secure (HTTPS) website and verified office address. Missing or unclear contact details are a major warning sign.
- 3. Unrealistic Loan Promises** - Be cautious of instant approvals, no-documentation loans, or very low interest rates. Real lenders always conduct proper eligibility and credit checks.
- 4. Upfront Payment Demand** - Legitimate lenders never ask for fees before loan approval. Any upfront payment request is a strong sign of fraud.
- 5. Communication from Official Channels** - Loan communication should come from official emails or verified accounts. Personal numbers or free email IDs usually indicate scams.
- 6. Pressure to Act Immediately** - Fraudsters use urgency to force quick decisions. Genuine lenders give you time to review and decide.
- 7. Excessive Phone or App Permissions** - Lenders do not need access to contacts, photos, or social media. If an app asks for intrusive permissions, uninstall it immediately.
- 8. Online Reviews & Complaints** - Always check reviews on app stores and social platforms. Repeated complaints about fraud or harassment are a red flag.
- 9. Clear & Transparent Loan Agreement** - A valid loan must have a written agreement with all charges clearly stated. Never proceed if terms are unclear or undocumented.
- 10. Secure App or Website** - Download loan apps only from official app stores. Avoid APK files, WhatsApp links, or unknown downloads.
- 11. Verified Social Media Presence** - Credible lenders usually have verified social media pages. No digital footprint or complaint channel calls for caution.
- 12. Proper Sanction Letter** - A sanction letter should clearly mention loan amount, interest, and charges. Refusal to share official documents is a serious warning.
- 13. Confidential Banking Details** - No lender will ever ask for OTPs, PINs, or passwords. Sharing these details can lead to financial loss.
- 14. Grievance Redressal System** - A genuine lender provides a clear complaint and escalation process. Absence of a grievance mechanism means you should avoid the lender.